

Reminder: *Steel shot is required on all GPA's and WPA's Aurora County

Lynn Geuke



Fishing report:

Wilmarth Mitchell: **NO VEHICLES OFF ROAD.**

Reminder: The minimum length limit on Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass in the lake is 15"
THE ENTIRE LAKE OF WILMARTH IS A NO WAKE ZONE!

Nelson Lake: No report. **NO VEHICLES DRIVING OFF ROADS.**



Hunting report: Waterfowl hunting has started to decline as we are waiting for more northern ducks to come down. Numbers have decreased and water in the area is not as plentiful as last year. Pheasant hunters have done fairly well thus far. You can expect to pick up a couple birds here and there. It will take some time and some walking, but you can accomplish your goal of getting your limit of 3. Birds in the area affected by the hail earlier in the year are down and hunter success is down in those areas as well. As more crops are harvested I look to see an increase in hunter success. Deer hunters should do well this fall as the deer in Aurora County look to be healthy and plentiful.

Beadle County

Chris Kuntz



Fishing Report: Fishing has been slow with minimal activity.

James River: Slow.

Lake Byron: Slow.

Mud Lake: Slow.

Cavour Lake: Slow.

Ravine: Slow.



Hunting Report: Pheasant hunters are having decent success averaging about 1.5 birds/hunter. There is still approximately 75 percent of the corn in, making it more difficult. The evening hours seem to be the best.

Waterfowl hunting has been very slow due to lack of birds in the area.

Remember to make sure you are at least 660ft away from any occupied dwelling, livestock, church or school when road hunting.

Bon Homme County

Todd Crownover



Fishing Report

Missouri River: Catfish are biting on worms and stink bait in the shallows, some are good sized. Large and Smallmouth Bass are being caught on artificials. Drum and carp are also biting on worms. Crappies have been spotty but are being caught on minnows. Walleye have been slow.

Lake Henry: Bluegill and crappies are biting on worms, leaches and minnows. Small Rapala's are also catching bass and larger crappies.

Remember bass size is 15 inches and the lake is slow-no wake.

Clear Lake: No report.

Merkel Lake (Singleton GPA): No report.

Heritage GPA: Small bluegill and bass are being caught on worms.



Hunting Report: No activity.

Brookings County

Jeff Grendler



Fishing Reports:

Lake Sinai: Fishing has been slow. A few walleyes have been picked up but anglers are really having to work for these. A few smallmouth bass have been hitting.

West Lake Oakwood: No activity.

East Oakwood: No Activity.

Oak Lake: No activity.

Brush Lake: A few walleyes are being caught.

Lake Poinsett: A few walleyes and occasional perch. Fishing has been slow.

East 81 ponds: A few walleyes have been caught from shore, 14-16 inches. Anglers have been using minnows and casting small crankbaits. Weedline has died down making casting easier.

Lake Hendricks: Slow, little to no activity.

Lake Goldsmith: Slow little to no activity.

Lake Campbell: No Activity.

Dakota Nature Park: Slow.

Interstate Lake: Slow.



Hunting Report: Good number of ducks in the area. Water levels are decent with most wetlands public and private having enough to set decoys. Hunters are starting to see a few divers and migrating mallards. More Canada geese are starting to show up in the southwest and northwest part of the county.

Hunters are reminded that when hunting on the water that most of these waters are overflowing over private property and that the land underneath is in private ownership. Hunters need to stay on the water when hunting. Since the land under the water is privately owned hunters walking on or boats touching the bottom is considered trespass. Very few of these lakes have shorelines that are open to public access. Most islands are owned privately on meandered waters.

This weekend is the opening weekend for pheasant hunting. All hunters are reminded when blocking fields to be aware of their surroundings and making sure they have a clean shot. Most accidents in South Dakota occur when hunters are swinging on game and do not see the other person.

The 660 rule does not apply while hunting private land next to a home. Hunters are allowed to hunt on land they have permission within 660 feet of occupied homes. Hunter should exercise caution when doing so. There are special rules when road hunting. Hunters need to read and understand these rules.

A reminder that pheasants cannot transported without sufficient plumage. This includes a head, wing or foot attached. Hunters need to transport their own game.

Clay County

Tony Stokely



Fishing Report:

Missouri River: Little activity.

Vermillion River: Some luck for catfish.



Hunting Report: Some success early on for geese on Missouri river. Few pheasants being located in northern part of county.

Trapping: Encourage trappers to wait until heavy frost starts.

Davison County

Andy Petersen



Fishing Report:

Remember Firesteel Creek is off limits to the taking of any baitfish.

Lake Mitchell: No report.

James River: No report.



Hunting Report: Hunters were seeing good groups of birds throughout the area. Hunters still had to work to get birds. There is still a lot of corn unharvested, which is holding a lot of birds. The season opens at 12:00 noon CST on October 18th – 24th and 10:00 am CST the rest of the season. The season closes at sunset each day.

Waterfowl: Duck numbers are low around the county. The migration remains north of South Dakota, so until the weather gets colder in Canada and North Dakota, duck hunting will be slow. Hunting pressure has been low.

Deer: As the corn harvest continues, the deer will become more visible.

Hanson County

Andy Petersen/Matt Talbert



Fishing Report:

Lake Hanson: No Report

Ethan Dam: No Report

James River: No Report



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Hutchinson County

Brian Humphrey



Fishing: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting: Pheasant numbers appear to be strong in the western part of the county. No archery deer hunting activity observed. There have been a few geese being shot in the county.

Jerauld County

Lynn Geuke



Fishing Report: No report.



Hunting Report: Waterfowl hunting is slow. Pheasant hunting on the other hand has been alright, with hunters showing decent success. Once again you will need to walk to get your birds however; a limit of pheasants is not out of the question. As more crops are harvested we should look to see an increase in hunter success.

Deer hunters should have fairly good success this year as there is a good deer population in the area and they seem to be healthy.

Kingsbury County

Shane Van Bockern



Fishing Reports:

Lake Thompson: Fair for walleye, crappie, pike, white bass, and some perch.

West 81: Slow success on walleye smallmouth, and white bass.

Lake Whitewood: Slow.

Lake Henry: Slow for pike and walleye.

Lake Albert: Slow for pike and walleye.

Spirit Lake: Slow.

Lake Preston: No activity.



Hunting Report: Waterfowl hunting has been fair-good. Good numbers of local ducks are still in the county. Canada goose numbers seem to be lower the county than previous years. Pheasant hunters had poor-moderate success last weekend. Large amounts of standing corn and mild weather made locating birds difficult. Hunting should improve when the corn harvest gets underway.

Lake County

Cody Symens



Fishing Report:

Lake Madison: Anglers catching walleye in the 16-18" range at the Payne's Access.

Lake Herman: Slow.

Brant Lake: Slow.

Long Lake: No pressure.

Lake Henry: Anglers catching keeper walleye in the 16-22" range from shore and boat. Late evening bite.

Lake George: Slow.



Hunting Report: The public areas produced birds throughout Lake County but hunters were still well below a one bird average. Target these areas in the late evening prior to sunset and hunters seem to be doing the best.

Waterfowl: There are a few fields with waterfowl numbers; however, the majority of the local ducks have left the area.

Lincoln County

Nate Stukel



Fishing Report:

Big Sioux: Very little fishing activity this past week.

Hudson: The Rainbow Trout bite has really picked up this week.

Lake Alvin: No activity.

Lake Lakota: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: A fair number of ducks and geese can be found in the county if a person spends time scouting. Most birds are located in the North West portion of the county.

Pheasants: Hunters are picking up a bird or two in the county. Hunting should improve once the corn is harvested.

McCook County

Matt Talbert



Fishing Report:

Lake Vermillion: Shore anglers have had some luck on Catfish. Not much water is running over the spillway reducing the likelihood of catching anything in that area. Boat anglers have been picking up a few walleye here and there early and late in the day.

Island Lake: Shore and Boat anglers will have some luck on pike and smallmouth bass.

Lehrman Slough: No fishing activity seen.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl- Plenty of ducks in the area.

Miner County

Evan Meyer



Fishing Report: No activity.



Hunting Report: Hunters are having some luck finding pheasants hunting grass areas near sundown. Corn harvest is at a standstill due to rain. Bird numbers appear to be ok and will only pick up at more corn is harvested. Waterfowl numbers seem to be picking up with some white fronts spotted in northern part of county. REMINDER for the pheasant season of the 660 feet rule for road hunting small game. Please be considerate to those areas!

Minnehaha County

Jared Hill



Fishing Report:

Beaver Lake: A few walleye, small perch and crappie.

Scott Slough: Bullheads fair to good. A few small perch and walleye.

Island Lake: A few pike, perch, and walleye.

Loss Lake: Bullheads fair and a few walleye.

Lost Lake: No reports.

Twin Lakes: Walleyes fair to good. **(REMEMBER: 28 inch minimum on Walleyes.)**

Family Park: A few trout, bluegill, and crappie.

Wall Lake: A few walleye, blue gill, and crappie.

Clear Lake: No reports.



Hunting Report: Goose hunters who have spent time scouting are having success. Try and pattern the birds to maximize your opportunity. Duck hunter have been having fair to good success. Pheasant numbers appear to be better this year. **Reminder – Be aware of where you are and what around you when hunting.**

Moody County

Chad Williams



Fishing Report:

Big Sioux River: Activity has slow down. There are not many anglers fishing river this time of year, but those who do usually have fairly decent success at catching a nice walleye or two.



Hunting Report: There were quite a few hunters out for the opener of pheasant season. Hunters averaged about a bird per person in the areas with higher numbers of pheasants. The corn fields are quickly coming out and success will increase. Hunters that were successful were hunting the evening (last couple hours) near good stands of grass / wetlands next to cornfields.

Sanborn County

Evan Meyer



Fishing Report: Fishing activity has been minimal in the county.



Hunting Report: Hunters are having some luck finding pheasants hunting grass areas near sundown. Corn harvest is at a standstill due to rain. Bird numbers appear to be ok and will only pick up at more corn is harvested. Waterfowl numbers seem to be picking up with some white fronts spotted in northern part of county. REMINDER for the pheasant season of the 660 feet rule for road hunting small game. Please be considerate to those areas!

Turner County

Brian Humphrey



Fishing Report: Fishing forecast for Swan Lake looks good for anglers who are seeking to catch some nice Walleyes.



Hunting: Duck and goose hunters have has some success at Mud Lake GPA shooting some ducks and geese. No signs of any archery hunters yet.

Union County

Tony Stokely / Nate Stukel



Fishing Report:

Missouri River: Few anglers finding paddlefish, many in the slot.

Big Sioux River: Low activity.

McCook Lake: Little to no acitivity.

Reminder: There must be a wearable lifejacket of appropriate size for everybody on board your boat.



Hunting Report: Minimal success for pheasants in northern part of county. Waterfowlers not seeing birds with nice weather.

Trapping: Activity has started, but fur is not ready yet. Trappers encouraged to wait until temperatures get to freezing point.

Yankton County

Dan Altman



Fishing Report:

Marindahl: Fishing pressure and catch rates are low.

Lewis and Clark: Fishing pressure and catch rates have increased over the past two weeks. Anglers fishing from boats are having the most success catching walleye. Some walleye are also being picked up around Lewis and Clark Marina causeway.

James River: No report.

Lake Yankton: **DEAD!!!** The first stage of the Lake Yankton renovation project is complete. Stocking efforts are scheduled for this fall

Missouri River: Paddlefish snagging season is open to limited license holders. Snaggers are having decent success but many of the fish caught are in the protected slot range (35" – 45").



Hunting Report: The Unit 1 Canada goose season and duck seasons are currently open in Yankton County. Duck hunters report good numbers of small ducks have moved into the area. Hunters focused on the northern part of Yankton County are having the best success. **Remember, the limit for Canada geese in Unit 1 is now 8 geese instead of 15 geese.**

Archery and Youth deer seasons are currently open. Deer numbers have increased in Yankton County compared to last year. Deer numbers are below normal in the central/north part of the county and are high in other isolated areas.